

**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

No claims are currently being cancelled.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 21 and 22 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-24 are now pending in this application.

Please note that the amendments to claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 are based on the embodiment shown in Figure 5 of the drawings.

In the Office Action, claims 4 and 10 are objected to (the Office Action states 3 and 10, but it is believed that it should have referred to claims 4 and 10) due to the word "that" in the second line of those claims. That word have been deleted from claims 4 and 10, whereby it is believed that those claims are now unobjectionable.

In the Office Action, the title of the invention was objected to because it was not descriptive. By way of this amendment and reply, a more descriptive title is being submitted.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 and 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,982,236 to Bock in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,983,810 to Brugge et al.; claims 6 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bock in view of Brugge et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,835,872 to Alcantara Perez et al.; and claims 13-24 were rejected for the same reasons set forth in the Office

Action with respect to claims 1-12. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims, for at least the reasons given below.

In accordance with the claimed invention, as shown in the drawings, when a carriage has been guided along a rail 52 in the X direction to a hold position (e.g., the position of Figure 6 of the drawings), a part 431 of a frame 43 is received in a slit 73 and another part 432 (433) of the frame 43 is inserted between a projection 71 (72) and a rail 52. Then, movement of the frame 43 in a main scanning direction (first direction) and the direction indicated by an arrow X (second direction) is inhibited by the slit 73, and movement of the frame 43 in an upward direction is inhibited by the two projections 71 and 72.

When packing the machine for shipment, a frame 44 of a second carriage is fixed to a casing 32 by a screw 62, as shown in Figure 4 of the drawings. By doing so, the frame 43 which is connected to the frame 44 by wires Wf, Wr is placed at the hold position. Consequently, movement of the frame 43 in the direction opposite to the X direction of Figure 5 can be inhibited by the wires Wf, Wr.

Thus, according to the claimed invention, only by fixing the frame 44 of the second carriage to the casing 32, the frame 43 of the first carriage can be fixed at the hold position, and in addition, movement of the frame 43 from the hold position can be inhibited in scanning and sub-scanning directions. Therefore, it is possible to fix the first and second carriages to the casing with reliability when packing the machine for shipment.

On the other hand, Bock discloses a carriage 8 which is slidably provided along two rails 10, as noted in the Office Action. The carriage 8 includes an optical element which illuminates a document and receives light reflected from the document. Hence, Bock merely discloses a scanner equal in level to the conventional scanner mentioned as the prior art in the specification of the present application, and it does not disclose a fixing mechanism for the carriage 8.

Brugge et al. discloses a data recorder 10 in which a carriage 18 is slid in the directions indicated by arrows 20 and 22 during a printing operation of a data card 14 mounted on a rigid bed 16.

As shown in Figure 1 of Brugge et al., an actuator 24 for actuating a lever 50 of Figure 4 of Brugge et al. is provided on the left side of a frame 12. The lever 50 is rotated about a shaft 46 by the actuator 24 being manually operated, thereby inhibiting and releasing movement of the carriage 18.

To be more specific, if the actuator 24 is moved to the position shown by Figure 5 of Brugge et al. while the lever 50 is in a reset position as shown in Figure 4 of Brugge et al., the latch element 38 of a frame 30 of the carriage 18 is unlatched from the latch surface 64, so that the reset element 40 of the frame 30 comes in contact with the reset finger 66. When the carriage 18 at the home position is moved in the direction indicated by the arrow 20 of Figure 1 of Brugge et al. in this state, the lever 50 is pivoted to the reset position as shown in Figure 4 of Brugge et al..

When the carriage 18 is intended to be set at the home position, a portion 39 of the latch element 38 pushes the cam surface 72 of the lever 50, as shown in Figure 6 of Brugge et al., and the lever 50 is slightly pivoted in a counterclockwise direction to return to the home position as shown in Figure 4 of Brugge et al.

To sum up, Brugge et al. merely discloses a mechanism for fixing and releasing the carriage 18 to and from the home position. In other words, Brugge et al. does not teach or suggest a mechanism for inhibiting movement of the carriage in a main scanning direction, a sub-scanning direction or a vertical direction, and Brugge et al. also does not disclose the claimed use of a "slit".

Alcantara Perez discloses gripping means 26, 28 for holding support means 24 which supports tool means 17. As shown in Figure 5 of Alcantara Perez, each of the gripping means includes an urge spring 37 for urging an electromagnet 35 upward. However, Alcantara Perez does not teach or suggest a mechanism for inhibiting movement of a carriage in a main scanning direction,

a sub-scanning direction or a vertical direction and it also does not disclose the use of a "slit".

For the reasons above, the presently claimed invention is patentable over the combined teachings of the cited art of record.

Therefore, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

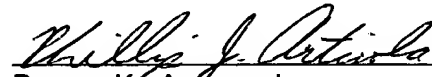
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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